



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

JAN 21 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR: Distribution\*  
*Mark R. Milliman for*  
FROM: Galen R. Tromble  
Chief, Domestic Fisheries Division

SUBJECT: Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for a  
Regulatory Amendment to the Pelagics Fishery Management Plan of  
the Western Pacific Region

The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), prepared the subject DSEIS for public review. The DSEIS supplements the "Final Environmental Impact Statement; Fishery Management Plan Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region," issued by NMFS on March 30, 2001 (FEIS). The proposed action is to revise management measures for the fisheries managed under the Fishery Management Plan for the Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region, with the objective of achieving optimum yields from these fisheries without being likely to jeopardize the continued existence of sea turtles or other endangered species. The range of alternatives, which focuses on the management of the Hawaii-based longline fishery, includes time/area closures, as well as the implementation of a limited model shallow-set swordfish fishery using circle hooks with mackerel bait, which in combination have been found to reduce the level of interactions between longline gear and leatherback and loggerhead turtles by 67% and 92% respectively in experiments in the Atlantic Ocean. In addition, the document considers non-regulatory off-site conservation actions to improve recruitment in sea turtle populations that are affected by the longline fisheries managed under the fishery management plan.

Enclosed is a CD-ROM for the subject DSEIS for your review and comment. The DSEIS and FEIS are also located at the Council's website at <http://www.wpcouncil.org>. If you prefer a hard copy, please let me know. Comments must be received by February 20, 2004. If you have any questions, please call Bill Chappell at (301) 713-2341.

Attachment

\*Distribution

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